

~~TOP SECRET DAUNT DRUG~~

Re-issue

M 381

From: WASHINGTON

To: MOSCOW

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15-29 June 1943

Part I

To VORONTSOV.

Operational situation from March to June 1943.

Alaska (Aleutians).

During March the Japanese strongly attacked [2 groups unrecovered] on the Aleutians [2 groups unrecovered] to reinforce the islands of Attu and Kiska. By the end of June they [1 group unrecovered] to finish construction of an airfield on Attu, assuring the subsequent development of active operations in the Aleutians and the freeing of their positions from the activity of American aviation. Strong artillery positions were created in the north-east part of the island of Attu in the region of the west arm of Holtz Bay and in the region of Massacre Bay (south-east part of the island).

[100 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

west of Reynard Bay were discovered new artillery batteries, roads and construction, forming a strong reinforced position across the island. East of Gertrude Bay aerial photos revealed additional firing positions and service buildings. Supplying of the Japanese garrisons in the Aleutians was severely hampered by the American capture of Amchitka and the Andreanov Islands, by the construction of airfields there, and by the great striking power of the [American] fleet in the Aleutian area.

Continuation follows.
YeGORICHEV

#437

Part II

#438. Continuation of telegram #437.

On 26 March a strong operational group (task force) of the American fleet consisting of 1 heavy cruiser, 1 light cruiser and 4 destroyers (it is presumed there was 1 battleship) patrolling the approaches to the Aleutians from the southwest made contact with an operational group of the Japanese fleet consisting of 2 heavy cruisers, 2 light cruisers, 6 destroyers and 4 transports cruising in the direction of the island of A

[67 groups unrecoverable]

Komandorski Islands is the first skirmish of surface craft in the Aleutian area and one of the most prolonged contacts of the fleet under conditions of daytime visibility. In contrast to engagements in the south Pacific, aviation here did not participate at all. A description of the engagement will be found on page 27 of our press summary for February-April. [The following] should be noted:

1. The decisive action of the commander of the American operational group, Rear-Admiral MacMorris, and the mobile striking power of the Americans.
2. The effectiveness of the artillery fire and torpedo attacks of the American cruisers and destroyers.

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3. The absence of aircraft carriers in the Japanese operational group, which is explained by the losses which the Japanese have suffered in previous battles with the Americans and their endeavor to conserve their remaining aircraft carriers, just as with their battleships, which the Japanese have not used now for more than a year.

4. Despite the exceptionally strong escort [5 groups unrecovered] transports (4-6) and his assignment to deliver combat supplies to the Aleutians at any cost, the commander of the Japanese operational group preferred to retire from battle with a strong but not superior opponent, which is explained by the weakening of the aggressive spirit of the Japanese naval commanders.

Continuation follows.

Part III

#439. Continuation of telegram #437.

During April the Americans and Canadians subjected the islands of Kiska and Attu to almost daily air raids, inflicting severe damage to the Japanese camp and to the coastal installations of the submarine base. The Americans met strong barrage fire of the enemy, however the enemy did not attempt to step up activity during all of April. The Japanese forces on Attu were determined at 2000-2500 men, on Kiska about 10000 men. The Japanese continued to strengthen their position and [3 groups unrecovered] pill boxes and fox holes for snipers with outlets on all sides. Underground shelters and stores of combat supplies were created. On [1 group unrecovered] Kiska airplanes.

[9 groups unrecovered]

aviation here until the end by anti-aircraft defense. [1 group unrecovered] 1943 Japanese installations in Chichagov Harbor and Holtz Bay were bombarded by an American light cruiser. During the period from 1 May through 31 May the Americans did not carry out operations on the seizure of the island of Attu.

Continuation follows.

Part IV

#440. Continuation of telegram #437.

[27 groups unrecovered]

Pacific Ocean Vice-Admiral Kin

[39 groups unrecoverable]

Kincaid

[139 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

Continuation follows.

Part V

#441. Continuation of telegram #437.

6.

[144 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

deep into the island and occupying a position on the highlands between the east and west arms of Holtz Bay. On 17 May the Americans attacked with two groups, drove the enemy from these positions and joined forces. Then the enemy was enveloped from the left flank and to a considerable extent destroyed in the area of the watershed between the valleys of Massacre Bay and Holtz Bay. Organized defense of the enemy continued only on the peninsula adjoining

[111 groups unrecovered].

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Part VI

#442. Continuation of telegram #437.
[5 groups unrecovered] Attu

[206 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

Part VII

[150 groups unrecoverable]

Kiska almost [1 group unrecovered] in anti-aircraft fire the island of Malta. The presence of airfields, submarine bases, reinforced concrete pill boxes, earth and timber pill boxes, underground stores of combat supplies and underground shelters [3 groups unrecovered] (10-12 thousand) requires [3 groups unrecovered] on the part of the Americans. The presence of airfields on Attu, Amchitka, the Andreanov Islands and

[6 groups unrecovered]

in the Aleutians to Dutch Harbor, with the growing superiority of fleet and aviation, permits [4 groups unrecovered] the seizure of Kiska within the next 2-3 months, not taking into account possible losses. It is obvious that it will now be considerably more difficult for the Japanese to supply the garrison on Kiska [3 groups unrecovered] by which they did this

[18 groups unrecovered].

Part VIII

#444. Continuation of telegram #437.

[74 groups unrecovered]

New Guin

[216 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

to unexpected attacks the ships and vessels of the enemy, 7-8 ships were sunk including a cruiser and several destroyers, also 8 transports (according to American reports).

Continuation follows.

Part IX

#445. Continuation of telegram #437.

Attempts of the Japanese [5 groups unrecovered] on northern ports of Australia by forces of 60-100 planes led to major losses (64 planes) which evidently discouraged them. In all 100 Japanese planes were shot down in this theater (New Guinea-New Britain). At the end of April the Americans carried out raids on the islands of Nauru and Tarawa-Gilbert Islands. The Japanese raided the American base on Funafuti Island (Ellis Island). Losses to the US fleet during April from the activity of Japanese aviation: 1 destroyer, 1 taker and 1 Australian corvette.

Continuation follows.

Part X

#446. Continuation of telegram #437.

The fact that the Japanese not only avenged their losses but also considerably increased the number of their aircraft on New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and the islands to the north of Australia shows that they are firmly determined to maintain their positions in these areas. The increased quantity of airfields permits the Japanese to have great freedom to maneuver [5 groups unrecovered].

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The presence of 60 airfields in the southwest part of the Pacific (according to the statement of the Australian Navy Minister) and about 250,000 first-class troops has caused great alarm in Australian government circles and MacArthur's staff [3 groups unrecoverable].

Part XI

#447/ Continuation of telegram #437.

[52 groups unrecovered]

to Australia and

[311 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

, the press curtailed attacks on the leaders of the Navy and Army about the lack of attention on their part to the defense of the southern communications of the USA and the Australian continent.

Continuation follows.

Part [XII]?

#453. Continuation of telegram #437.

[46 groups unrecovered]

-17.

[24 groups unrecoverable]

Japanese force of people,

[49 groups unrecovered]

, which evidently

[20 groups unrecoverable]

federation

[200 groups unrecovered].

Continuation follows.

Part [XIII]?

#455. Continuation of telegram #437.

The African campaign and operations of the Allies in the Mediterranean Sea [1 group unrecovered] (according to reports of American intelligence). At the capture of Bizert

[59 groups unrecoverable]

1 Regolo type cruiser and 2 destroyers were disabled. Base installations were severely damaged. At the present time only destroyers are based at Palermo.

2. The port of Cagliari - Sardinia is the supply base. It is not being used at present.

3. During the bombing of La Maddalena, Sardinia, the heavy cruiser Trieste was sunk and another heavy cruiser damaged.

4. During the bombing of La Spezia

[111 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable].

Continuation follows.

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Part [XIV]? Continuation of telegram #437.

[49 groups unrecovered]

3000 tons each

[26 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

Axis ships. On 11 May during the bombing of

[87 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

the area of

[104 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

of the Axis on the way to Africa. In the period March-May, by torpedo boats

[9 groups unrecovered].

Part [XV?]

Continuation follows.

#457. Continuation of telegram #437.

Operations of Axis submarines in the Atlantic. According to the data of a secret bulletin

[108 groups unrecovered]

on African

[16 groups unrecovered]

submarine warfare of the Axis against the Allies

[64 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable].

Part [XVI?]

#458. Continuation of telegram #437.

After [1 group unrecovered] Axis submarines

[29 groups unrecovered]

Axis submarines

[217 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable].

Part [XVII?]

#459. Continuation of telegram #437.

[70 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

In the Atlantic already 200 helicopters are being used by the US Naval Ministry from aircraft carriers and patrol craft. The high effectiveness of these machines in spotting submarines has been noticed. Upon sighting a ship, the helicopter settles on its course and following it [1 group unrecovered] until the patrol ships arrive.

3. By the use of aircraft carrier based patrol airplanes for all kinds of assignments.

4. By the use of a large quantity of patrol ships and escort destroyers. By the end of 1943 there should be 300 units in operation (according to the same data).

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5. By the use of depth bombs with a new especially powerful explosive.

Continuation follows.

Part [XVIII?]

#460. Continuation of telegram #437.

At the same time the number of Axis submarines sunk sharply increased. According to the same data from 14 June the Americans captured a total of 5 German submarines. A sharp drop has been noticed in the morale of German submariners. For instance

[151 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable].

Part [XIX?]

#461. Continuation of telegram #437.

[152 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

with a sailing frigate, as swifter and [2 groups unrecovered] corvette.

Continuation follows.

Part [XX?]

[#463?]. Continuation of telegram #437.

[82 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

the activities of Allied aviation until

[64 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

in Europe, but on

[118 groups unrecovered]

which arrived from

[18 groups unrecoverable]

in the sense of a large loss of manpower and therefore one must expect a subsequent weakening of Germany by bombardments. [2 groups unrecovered] the English note with disappointment that despite their many-sided work with the Turks they have not yet been able to win them to their side. It is possible that after the arrival of Allied forces in Italy the Turks will have great determination.

Continuation follows.

Part [XXI?]

#464. Continuation of telegram #437.

On 30 May 1943 was called a representative of the Naval Ministry in Tampa in [2 groups unrecovered] reported:

1. A telegram was received from Africa not to send any more troops there.

2. Ships and planes, formerly destined for use in north Africa, are being repainted green [4 groups unrecovered] their use in the conditions of the European theater.

A second front will be opened the end of June (possibly they have in mind landings in Italy)

3. Lend-Lease representative General Burns, in private conversation with Akulin, stated: "It will be very good if you hold out for another 4 months. The war will then be won and we will help you". (One should understand from this that the Allies intend to shift to offensive operations in Europe by fall.)

Continuation follows.

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Part [XXII?] #46-?, continuation of telegram #437.

[16 groups unrecovered]

sphere of operations

[263 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

within the limits of medium operative range of flight; that is, only on the far-eastern coast

[22 groups unrecoverable].

Part [XXIII?] #466.

continuation of telegram #437.

[80 groups unrecovered]

and Kurile

[60 groups unrecoverable].

Therefore

[104 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable].

Part [XXIV?] #465.

continuation of telegram #437.

[195 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

Continuation follows.

Part [XXV?] #468.

continuation of telegram #437.

[165 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

despite the lack of tonnage, chiefly tankers, Japan is in a position to support the activities of her fleet from resources on a [1 group unrecovered] base and very rich deposits of strategic raw materials. Therefore in case the Germans are faced by a military crisis in Europe, Japan will use her army and a sizeable part of the aviation in Manchuria, China, Korea and her own Japanese reserves to strike a blow on our Far East.

Continuation follows.

Part [XXVI?] #469.

continuation of telegram #437.

[224 groups unrecovered or unrecoverable]

End of #437